

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4471

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 3160

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PE

SUBJ: BACKGROUND TO THE PRESIDENT'S OAS SPEECH

REF: STATE 084912, CURRENT REACTION REPORT 151505Z FROM USIS LIMA;
CURRENT REACTION REPORT 181444Z USIS LIMA; CURRENT REACTION
REPORT 161608Z FROM USIS LIMA

SUMMARY: FONMIN JOSE DE LA PUENTE, OTHER GOP OFFICIALS AND THE
PRESS HAVE PROVIDED INITIAL REACTIONS TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S OAS
SPEECH. THESE COMMENTS AND MY REFLECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON
IMPLEMENTING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE SPEECH FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

1. FORMIN JOSE DE LA PUENTE REMARKED TO PRESS APRIL 16 THAT PRESI-
DENT CARTER'S OAS SPEECH IS ENCOURAGING BECAUSE IT OPENS THE
POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING JOINT ACTION BETWEEN LATIN AMERICAN
NATIONS AND THE U.S. WITHIN THE OAS FRAMEWORK. DE LA PUENTE CON-
TRASTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S APPROACH WITH AN "EARLIER CONCEPT WHICH
WORRIED US, THAT OF STATIC COMPARTMENTALIZING, WHERE THE U.S.
NEGOTIATED COUNTRY BY COUNTRY WHEN WE HAVE COMMON PROBLEMS WHICH
MERIT BEING TREATED AS SUCH". ON HUMAN RIGHTS, DE LA PUENTE SAID
THAT THE CARTER STATEMENT DEMONSTRATED A "CLEAR APPRECIATION OF
LATIN AMERICAN PROBLEMS AND THAT GREATLY SATISFIES US". THE
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FONMIN THEN NOTED, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, PRESIDENT CARTER'S
RECOGNITION THAT DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS MUST BE COMPATIBLE WITH
THE RIGHTS OF STATES. DE LA PUENTE DECLARED THAT EVEN THOUGH
THIS (HUMAN RIGHTS) IS A NOBLE ASPIRATION, IT CAN HAVE NEGATIVE
REPERCUSSIONS AT TIMES IF ITS APPLICATION IS NOT RIGHT, BY VIOLAT-
ING THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION.

2. OTHER IMMEDIATE REACTION INCLUDED AN APRIL 15 TELEPHONE CALL TO ME FROM RETIRED GENERAL LUIS BARANDIARAN, COORDINATOR FOR THE JUNTA DE CARTAGENA (ANDEAN PACT). BARANDIARAN PRAISED CARTER'S SPEECH, ESPECIALLY THE REFERENCE TO THE ANDEAN PACT. THIS REFERENCE, HE SAID, WAS "WORTH MILLIONS" BECAUSE IT WILL INCREASE BUSINESS CONFIDENCE IN THE PACT. ENRIQUE ZILERI, DIRECTOR OF THE PROMINENT INDEPENDENT BIWEEKLY MAGAZINE CARETAS, TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 15 THAT CARTER'S SPEECH WAS JUST RIGHT IN REFRAINING FROM OVER-BLOWN PROMISES AND AVOIDING AN APPEAL TO ANY SPECIAL U.S./LATIN AMERICA PATERNALISTIC RELATIONSHIP. ZILERI STATED THAT U.S. POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AS REFLECTED IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH CONTINUES TO CONTRADICT PRINCIPLES OF NON-INTERVENTION BUT IN THIS CASE IT IS A HEALTHY CONTRADICTION WHICH CANNOT BE NEATLY RESOLVED. ZILERI FELT THAT THE PRESIDENT'S APPROACH DEMONSTRATED AN ATTENTION TO PROBLEM-RESOLUTION RATHER THAN NEW THEORETICAL DEVELOPMENT. PRESS COMMENTARY ON THE SPEECH IS REPORTED IN USIS REFTELS.

3. I BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S REFERENCE TO PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH COORDINATED AND MULTILATERAL APPROACHES WILL MEET WITH A POSITIVE RESPONSE IN LATIN AMERICA AS IT HAS IN PERU. THE PLEDGE TO SIGN THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO INCREASE AID FOR POLITICAL REFUGEES IS ALSO IMPORTANT AS A DEMONSTRATION OF U.S. CONSISTENCY AND COMMITMENT. THE PRESIDENT'S DECLARED "HIGH REGARD FOR INDIVIDUALITY AND SOVEREIGNTY" AS BASIC POLICY SHOULD HELP REASSURE LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS THAT U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED IN ISOLATION FROM OUR RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. WE MUST TAKE CARE TO STRESS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO AVOID REPRESENTATIONS WHICH APPEAR AS AN IMPOSITION OF U.S. VALUES OR AN EXPRESSION

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OF MORALISTIC IMPULSE. APPARENT SANCTIONS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS SUCH AS THE REDUCTION OF SMALL MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OR ALREADY FADING ECONOMIC AID, REPRESENT IN MY VIEW NO SANCTION AT ALL AND ARE LIKELY TO BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. THEREFORE I APPLAUD THE NON-PUNITIVE AND MULTILATERAL NATURE OF THE SPEECH. I BELIEVE THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS, IF STRENGTHENED, WOULD BE THE RIGHT VEHICLE FOR OUR HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORT IN THE HEMISPHERE SINCE IT WOULD TEAM U.S. WORK WITH THAT OF OUR NEIGHBORS.

4. ALTHOUGH THE PERUVIAN INTERNAL SECURITY VS HUMAN RIGHTS INTERPLAY HAS NOT DEVELOPED INTO THE ACTUE PROBLEM THAT EXISTS ELSEWHERE, THE GOP IS HIGHLY NATIONALISTIC AND SENSITIVE TO "OUTSIDE INTERVENTION". THIS EMBASSY HAS USED A VARIETY OF APPROACHES (PRIMARILY QUIET REPRESENTATIONS AT MANY LEVELS AND ACROSS AGENCIES) TO INCREASE GOP AWARENESS OF OUR COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, AT THE SAME TIME AVOIDING HEAVY HAND WHICH MIGHT BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. WE HOPE THAT A CONTINUED DEMONSTRATION OF OUR COMMITMENT IN GENERAL AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN

INDIVIDUAL CASES WILL CONTRIBUTE TO A GOP EFFORT TO TAKE HUMAN RIGHTS INTO ACCOUNT IN IMPLEMENTATION OF WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE NECESSARY INTERNAL SECURITY MEASURES.

5. CONCERNING THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON ARMS RESTRAINT, HIS PRAISE FOR THE DECLARATION OF AYACUCHO COUPLED WITH THE HOPE THAT THE EIGHT-NATION PLEDGE TO LIMIT THE ACQUISITION OF OFFENSIVE ARMS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED, PROVIDES ME WITH A FIRM BASIS FOR PERIODICALLY ASKING GOP LEADERS ABOUT STEPS IT HAS TAKEN TOWARD FULFILLING THAT PERUVIAN INITIATIVE. I BELIEVE THE EMBASSY'S APPROACH TO FMS CREDITS AND IMET GRANTS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO U.S. EFFORTS TOWARD ARMS RESTRAINT. I WOULD LIKE FMS CREDITS TO BE ORIENTED TOWARD SPARE PARTS AND REPAIRS RATHER THAN END-ITEMS. FOR THE TIME BEING AND IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUED HIGH LEVEL OF MILITARY PURCHASES BY THE GOP I RECOMMEND AGAINST TRANSFER OF END-ITEMS THAT MIGHT ENHANCE PERU'S OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY. IMET SHOULD BE RETAINED AT THE PRESENT LEVEL. IT IS USEFUL AS PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE
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AND CAN STRENGTHEN THE EXISTING U.S./PERUVIAN TIES IN MILITARY AND OTHER MATTERS. THE PRESENT LEVEL OF MILITARY COOPERATION WITH PERU IS ABOUT RIGHT FOR MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS WITHOUT CONTRIBUTING TO AN ARMS BUILDUP.

6. THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE ANDEAN PACT IS CERTAIN TO RAISE EXPECTATIONS AMONG PACT SUPPORTERS AND THE USG WILL HAVE TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE MANNER IN WHICH WE GIVE SUBSTANCE TO THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS. WHILE I UNDERSTAND THAT NO COMMITMENTS CAN BE MADE NOW, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGIONAL PROJECTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RURAL HEALTH THAT MERIT FURTHER EXPLORATION. I URGE THAT AID MOVE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO EXPAND ITS ANDEAN REGIONAL PROGRAM AND GIVE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO FINANCE PROJECTS THAT ENCOURAGE ANDEAN INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

7. FINALLY, I WELCOME THE EMPHASIS ON CULTURAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGES AS A WAY TO STRENGTHEN LINKS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND LATIN AMERICA. THIS EMBASSY PLANS TO INCREASE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM GRANTS TO CIVILIAN POLITICAL LEADERS AND INDEPENDENT INDIVIDUALS IN THE MEDIA AS A MEANS TO ENCOURAGE POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION AND PROMOTE DEMOCRATIC VALUES.

8. I LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THE FOREGOING POINTS WITH YOU IN WASHINGTON.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

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